

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JERALD TERHORST COLUMN,
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, HEADLINED
"BATTLE TO DEFINE US SELF-INTEREST."

2. ONE OF THE FACTS OF INTERNATIONAL LIFE IS THAT
NATIONS ACT AND REACT ON THE BASIS OF SELF-INTEREST.
YET THIS CONCEPT IS UNDERGOING A SEVERE TEST JUST NOW
WITHIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

3. PRESIDENT FORD AND CONGRESS HAVE CONFLICTING VIEWS
OF WHAT CONSTITUTES AMERICA'S SELF INTEREST IN GLOBAL
MATTERS. WHEN HENRY KISSINGER COMPLAINS OF CONGRES-
SIONAL INTERFERENCE IN FOREIGN POLICY, HE IS NOT
LAMENTING CAPITOL HILL'S INSISTENCE ON GETTING A PIECE
OF THE ACTION AS MUCH AS ITS SEEMINGLY INCONSISTENT
AND ASTIGMATIC VIEWS OF NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST.

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4. THIS IS AT THE ROOT OF THE SQUABBLE OVER THE CONGRESSIONAL CUTOFF OF AID TO TURKEY BECAUSE OF ITS CLASH WITH GREECE OVER CYPRUS. THE LAW SAYS THIS GOVERNMENT WILL STOP ASSISTANCE TO ANY ALLY WHICH USES AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT AGAINST ANOTHER ALLY. THAT'S REASONABLE ENOUGH, SINCE AMERICA HAS A SELFISH

INTEREST IN PREVENTING TERRITORIAL AGGRANDIZEMENT BY ONE ALLY AT THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER.

5. THE SELF-INTERESTS ARE NOT EQUAL IN WEIGHT. THE SOVIET UNION SITS HEAVILY ALONG THE TURKISH BORDER. TURKEY'S ABILITY TO SURVIVE, AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN BASES THERE, ARE VITAL TO NATO'S DEFENSE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

6. FORD BELIEVES THAT INSURING TURKEY'S CONTINUED MILITARY MUSCULARITY IS MORE IN AMERICA'S SELF-INTEREST THAN IN DISCIPLINING HER FOR HER GREED ON CYPRUS. KISSINGER SAYS THAT CUTTING OFF AID TO TURKEY WON'T MAKE HER MORE TRACTABLE TO A FAIR CYPRUS SOLUTION.

7. BUT CONGRESS FEELS PRESSURED BY GREEK-AMERICAN VOTERS WHO WANT AMERICA TO DISCIPLINE TURKEY. IN A DEMOCRACY, THERE IS ALWAYS A DANGER THAT POLITICAL SELF-INTEREST WILL COLLIDE WITH NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST.

8. NOW THAT ITS GESTURE OF GREEK SUPPORT HAS BEEN MADE, PERHAPS CONGRESS WILL QUIETLY GIVE BACK TO FORD THE NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE HE NEEDS TO PERSUADE THE TURKS THAT EASING OFF ON CYPRUS IS IN THE SELF-INTEREST OF TURKEY AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES.

9. PERCEIVING AMERICA'S SELF-INTEREST IN INDOCHINA IS MORE AMBIVALENT. IF SAIGON WERE A COMPANY ON THE WALL STREET STOCK EXCHANGE, THE U.S. LONG AGO WOULD HAVE STOPPED BUYING SHARES. ABOUT THE ONLY THING GOING NOW FOR FORD'S REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY AID TO SAIGON IS THAT THE LAST CONGRESS AUTHORIZED \$1 BILLION BUT PUT UP ONLY \$700 MILLION. NOW THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENT IS ASKING FOR THE \$300 MILLION BALANCE.

10. BUT THAT WON'T BE THE END OF IT. THERE WILL BE MORE AID REQUESTS FROM INDOCHINA NEXT YEAR AND THE YEARS AFTER THAT. AMERICA SAID A LOT ABOUT ITS VIEW OF SELF-INTEREST WHEN IT PULLED U.S. FORCES OUT OF VIET NAM IN 1973. MOSCOW AND PEKING HAVE SAID A LOT ABOUT THEIR SELF-INTEREST BY GIVING HANOI ALL THE ARMS

AND SUPPORT NECESSARY TO CONTINUE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH. THEIR INVESTMENTS, IN TIME, MAY PAY GREATER DIVIDENDS THAN OURS.

11. CONFLICTING VIEWS OF AMERICA'S SELF-INTEREST ARE AT THE ROOT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL TUSSLE WITH THE

PRESIDENT OVER THE SIZE OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET. DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER INSISTS THAT SLASHES BY THE DEMOCRATS CONTRIBUTE TO THE STEADY EROSION OF U.S. ABILITY TO WITHSTAND SOVIET PRESSURE ALONG THE FLANKS OF THE WESTERN WORLD. THE AMERICAN NAVY HAS FEWER SHIPS TODAY THAN IT HAD BEFORE WORLD WAR II. THE ARMY HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF SINCE 1968. MEANWHILE, THE U.S.S.R. IS OUTSPENDING THE U.S. IN EVERY MEANINGFUL CATEGORY OF DEFENSE BY 20 TO 25 PER CENT.

12. AMERICA'S BLURRED VISION OF SELF-INTEREST IS UNDERSTANDABLE. WITHIN THE LAST 15 YEARS, THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN WRACKED BY RACIAL STRIFE, ASSASSINATIONS, A LONG UNPOPULAR WAR, A WHITE HOUSE SCANDAL, AND A PRESIDENTIAL RESIGNATION FOLLOWED BY INFLATION, RECESSION, AND AN ENERGY CRISIS. THE DANGERS WITHIN AMERICA SEEM GREATER THAN THOSE OUTSIDE.

13. FORD, KISSINGER, AND SCHLESINGER ARE NOT SO SURE; NEITHER ARE OTHER LEADERS OF THE WESTERN WORLD. IF THEY TURN OUT TO BE WRONG, OUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL BE AROUND TO WRITE ABOUT IT. (END TEXT). INGERSOLL

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